MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIRST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT, 1935.

Vol. IX—Nos. 1 to 10.

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(*c*) if the answers to (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative, what action has been taken by the Government to prosecute the offenders and to return the deposit amount of Rs. 20 in each case of a challenged vote in the said elections?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"(*a*) & (*b*) The answer is in the negative.

"(*c*) In view of the answer to clauses (*a*) and (*b*) the question in this clause does not arise."

Alleged death of an anti-Hindi prisoner in the hospital.

* 627-A. *Q.*—SRI E. KANNAN: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a report in the Press that a prisoner, Natarajan, convicted for picketing in anti-Hindi agitation died recently in the hospital; and

(*b*) the circumstances of the case and the cause of his death?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"One of the persons convicted in the picketing campaign at the Theological High School, Natarajan, an illiterate Harijan, who was convicted on the 5th December last, developed facial cellulitis with fever. After about five days in the Penitentiary hospital he was released temporarily and admitted in the General Hospital on 30th December. The Lieutenant-Colonel in charge of the ward has reported that he was admitted with facial cellulitis complicated with septicæmia pyæmia abscess in the thigh. In spite of the best efforts the patient developed pyæmic abscess in the brain. After sixteen days' treatment in the General Hospital, the patient died at 2 p.m. on the 15th January.

"The Surgeon's report is as follows:—

'Cases like these are really one of the serious problems in surgery. During the whole time when the patient was in this hospital he was unfit to be removed from here but he had free access to his relations. His father was almost always with him. While the patient was in this hospital, he was given all the modern treatment available for such cases, such as a course of streptococcal serum, proseptacine and soluseptacin in addition to intravenous glucose twice daily.'"

SRI G. RANGIAH NAYUDU:—"May I know whether the boy was not a student?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"He was, as I said already, not able to read or write his mother tongue or any other language. I presume he was not a student."

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SRI R. M. PALAT:—" Was not an application made by his parents for his release? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" None that the Government are aware of. As I have said, he was released from the Penitentiary jail and was for fifteen days in the General Hospital."

KUMARARAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—" Am I to understand from the Hon. Premier when he says that he was released, he was released in the legal and technical sense, or whether release means transfer from the Penitentiary to the General Hospital? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" There is a regular procedure for release—temporary release as it is called—of prisoners for the purpose of treatment in hospitals outside the jails. There are conditions attached to such release and the patient is really released for all practical purposes."

KUMARARAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—" Was any order passed to that effect? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" If I can judge aright from the report I have received from the person who is in charge of the Penitentiary hospital and the form in which that report has been sent it reads in the manner in which I have stated."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" How long was the unfortunate young man in the Penitentiary hospital before he was taken to the General Hospital? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" I have already stated that he was there for five days and for sixteen days in the General Hospital."

SRI R. M. PALAT:—" May I know how long the boy was inside the Penitentiary? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" For twenty-one days. I would also add the two days during which he was under observation."

SRI RAO BAHADUR M. C. RAJAH:—" May I know who was the doctor in charge of the patient in the jail during the five days when he was a patient there? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" He was in the Penitentiary hospital for five days, but I am not able to give the name of the Surgeon who immediately attended to him."

SRI RAO BAHADUR M. C. RAJAH:—" My point is whether the person was given proper treatment in the Penitentiary hospital? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" He was for five days in the Penitentiary hospital as distinguished from the cell, but as the authorities in the hospital could not see any improvement, they sent him to the General Hospital after going through this process of temporary release for treatment outside. The procedure adopted shows that they were very considerate and were quite able to see the danger of the situation."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Will the Hon. Premier be pleased to place the report on the table of the House? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" The Hospital authority sent us a report, but I shall read the report received from Lieutenant-Colonel Khan, I.M.S., who is in charge of the Penitentiary hospital. This is what it says:

'I have the honour to report that convict No. 5524, Natarajan, had a boil on the lower lip and was detained in the Penitentiary hospital for treatment on 26th December 1938. The boil burst on 27th December 1938 and was duly attended to. On 28th December 1938 the temperature rose up to 102 degrees F. Left side of the face became red and swollen and he was complaining of severe pain.

'Adequate treatment for his condition was given. On 28th and 29th his temperature was ranging between 100 degrees and 102 degrees F. The swelling in the face was stationary, but swelling and tenderness was noticed on right thigh and left leg.

'On the morning of 30th December 1938 the temperature was only 99 degrees, but swelling extended to the whole of the face, lips and front of the neck. The swollen part was red and tender and the spreading margin elevated.

'He was sent as an in-patient to the General Hospital immediately (30th December 1938). On 15th January 1939 a message was received from the Government General Hospital, Madras, that the person expired at 2 p.m.'

" The Government General Hospital message states that he died of cellulitis face."

KUMARARAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—" Is there any senior doctor in the Penitentiary? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" Lieutenant-Colonel Khan."

KUMARARAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—" When the I.M.S. officer in the Penitentiary discovered that there was cellulitis in the patient, were the Government made aware of the fact that it was a dangerous disease and that it should be treated in the General Hospital and not in the jail hospital? "

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THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"That is exactly the reason they had to keep him there for five days. It is not easy to diagnose such diseases at all. A certain time must elapse. Ordinary swelling is not distinguishable from cellulitis. In the process of maturing and observation some time elapses. If it could easily be observed, the gentleman responsible for taking him to the picketing campaign need not have taken him to that campaign."

KUMARARAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"May I know from the Hon. Premier whether the Government considered the question of releasing him when he was seriously ill in the hospital?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I have already stated very clearly that the patient was ill for five or six days in the Penitentiary and the Penitentiary authorities have taken the necessary steps for getting the necessary orders for the release of the prisoner and sending him on to the General Hospital. Releasing him and leaving him at the prison door would have served no human purpose."

KUMARARAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Apart from the release necessary for treatment of the prisoner, I want to ask the Government to let us know whether any application was received for releasing him altogether and whether they considered the question of releasing him because of his serious illness?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I am not aware of any such application having been made by anybody responsible for this young man. As I have already stated, he was an illiterate young man belonging to the scheduled classes."

KUMARARAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"I want to know whether the Government considered the question of releasing this young man of their own accord or not? It was a serious case."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"The Government were aware of his illness only when the report was made. From the report it was found that he was under the best of treatment. The question of entire release did not arise, further than the release already ordered."

KUMARARAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:— 3-30 p.m.
"May I ask when the first report was sent to the Government, and when he was sent to the hospital?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I think the dates that I have given are quite enough for the hon. the Leader of the Opposition. He was ill on the 25th; he was in the Penitentiary till the 30th; he was admitted in the General Hospital on the 30th. I cannot give the exact hour and the minute."

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DR. M. J. SAMUEL:—"In view of the serious nature of the disease, do not the Government think that the Penitentiary Medical Officer has made unusual delay in sending the patient to the General Hospital for expert treatment?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I do not think that in a case of this kind where the doctor found a swelling on the lip on the 25th, if the case reached the General Hospital at Madras on the 30th, and if in the interval the patient was in charge of Lieutenant-Colonel Khan in one place and Colonel Mahadevan in another place, any neglect can be imagined or possibly conceived of in this matter."

DR. M. J. SAMUEL:—"What was the prognosis of the Medical officers in the General Hospital when the patient was admitted?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"That can be seen from the report that I have received from Colonel Mahadevan in this matter. May I read it?"

DR. M. J. SAMUEL:—"May I ask whether it was bad when the patient was admitted or whether it was considered to be a fit case for treatment?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"When the General Hospital doctors admitted him on the 30th and diagnosed the case as cellulitis, I have it on the authority of the Surgeon-General that it falls in the class of one of the most difficult and troublesome matters that surgery has to deal with in modern times."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I ask whether this was not realized and found out and diagnosed even in the Penitentiary hospital?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"It must have been found out towards the latter part of the five days that I referred to."

SRI DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"May I ask, Sir, whether the swelling in the lip was due to natural causes or to any injury?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I can answer this very fair question, Sir. I think it was due to natural causes. I think the boy, though unfortunate by reason of what happened to him, has had better attention than he could have had otherwise."

SRI K. V. R. SWAMI:—"May I ask the Hon. the Premier whether the leaders of the anti-Hindi movement took any interest in this unfortunate boy?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I do not think the Government can answer that question."

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H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I have some of my questions which were passed over answered now."

MR. SPEAKER:—"But is this question finished? Does the hon. Member presume that this question is finished?"

KUMARARAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to place on the table of the House on a future occasion the qualifications of the doctor who immediately attended on the patient while he was in the Penitentiary?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"The Penitentiary, as the hon. the Leader of the Opposition should certainly know, is in charge of one of the best doctors that the Provincial Government can command. This has always been so. The Penitentiary and the hospital in that Penitentiary are under the immediate attention of that officer who is in charge of the Penitentiary. Whatever may be the qualifications of the various doctors who may be in charge, attention on patients will vary according to the nature of the case, according to the urgency of the matter and so on. I have no doubt that the best attention has been given in this case. No object will be served by placing the names of particular medical officers on the table."

SRI K. V. R. SWAMI:—"How did this illiterate man who had no knowledge of even his mother-tongue happen to take part in the anti-Hindi movement?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"A very interesting and relevant question, Sir, but the Government cannot answer it."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether it was due to his illiteracy that he got this illness?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"It was due to his illiteracy that he picketed and it was due to his picketing that he happened to be in the jail, but his illness was certainly due to other causes." (Laughter.)

Conditions governing the grant of special pay for shorthand and typewriting.

*609 *Q.*—H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there have been any complaints or memorials in respect of the application of G.O. No. 783, Public, dated 20th September 1933, and if so, what they are; and

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in the Press Note, dated 26th October 1938, the rules mentioned in the notification published with that Government Order merely replace the corresponding old rules relating to the districts of Tanjore, Trichinopoly and Salem and the rates of water-cess referred to therein are the *ultimate* rates. They do not in any way affect the existing concessional rates of water-cess which the Government have sanctioned until the end of fasli 1348.

" (*j*) The question does not arise.

" (*k*) No such decision was reached by the previous Government.

" (*l*) The price of rice has been fluctuating but has not gone down at any time since below the figure for July 1934.

" (*m*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*n*) In view of the answer to (*d*), the question does not arise."

SRI K. SAPTHARISHI REDDIYAR:—" As the ryot seems to be the proprietor of the soil, are not the Government bound to supply water free, Sir? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" It will not be so. The hon. Member must have some patience."

SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—" Will Government consider the Estates Land Act Committee's recommendation in the matter, Sir."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" It is still under consideration; it is not yet time." (Laughter.)

Arrests and treatment of persons convicted in connexion with the anti-Hindi movement.

* 685 *Q.*—SRI B. BAKTAVATSALU NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any arrests were made in connexion with the anti-Hindi movement in this Presidency, and if so, how many;

(*b*) the number of cases filed against anti-Hindi agitators;

(*c*) the number of cases that resulted in acquittals or discharge;

(*d*) the number of cases that ended in convictions;

(*e*) whether they are treated as political prisoners or as ordinary convicts;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that Swami Arunagiri Nathar was convicted and if so, for what offence;

(*g*) whether he requested the court to classify him as a 'B' class prisoner and whether it was refused, and if so, why;

(*h*) whether it is a fact that the Presidency Magistrate refused to allow rice diet to some of the prisoners and whether the Government have issued any directions on this matter; and

(*i*) whether the picketing carried on by the anti-Hindi agitators is peaceful and if so, why should it be treated as an offence?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"(*a*) *to* (*d*) Arrests in connexion with the anti-Hindustani 'picketing' totalled to 623, up to 31st December 1938.

"Prosecutions were made in 238 cases, 35 cases ended in acquittal or discharge and 198 cases in conviction.

"(*e*) They are treated as most members sitting on this side of the House were treated when they were sentenced to imprisonment, i.e., as ordinary prisoners with the addition of buttermilk in the diet of unclassified prisoners.

"(*f*) He was convicted for abetment of anti-Hindustani 'picketing.'

"(*g*) It is reported that Swami Arunagiri Nathar's request to be classified was rejected as the grounds for classification were found not to apply to his case.

"(*h*) The Government have ordered that rice diet should be given to any prisoner convicted in connexion with what is called anti-Hindustani picketing, if he asks for it.

"(*i*) The action of the persons referred to is not picketing but a reprehensible form of causing annoyance calculated to provoke a breach of the peace but for the patience of the victims and the vigilant control of the authorities. It cannot be considered as peaceful picketing as after a trial of eight months, it is found that not one student who attended the school has so far been persuaded to desist on account of reasons urged by the picketers, which marks the distinction between picketing and merely causing annoyance and obstruction."

3-15 p.m. SRI T. S. CHOKKALINGAM:—"May I know, Sir, when this Arunagiri Nathar became a *swamiar* and why?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I do not think that that question arises."

SRI T. S. CHOKKALINGAM:—"May I know, Sir, what the antecedents of Swami Arunagiri Nathar are?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I am sorry, Sir, I cannot go into that now."

SRI T. S. CHOKKALINGAM:—"Is it not the duty of the Government, Sir, to know the antecedents of their prisoners?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Not after their conviction."

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SRI T. S. CHOKKALINGAM:—"May I know, Sir, what is the actual number of prisoners who have tendered apology?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"That too does not arise out of this question. I am sorry to say I have not got the figures, Sir."

SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"May I know if any apology application is pending with the Government?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"No, Sir. The Government decided that except where a question of health is concerned, there was no use going into these apologies."

SRI A. SUBRAHMANYAM:—"சாப்பாட்டிற்கு வழி இல்லாமையினாலும் வேலை யெங்கும் கிடைக்காமையினாலும் துராக்கிரக இயக்கத்தில் தாங்கள் சேர்ந்ததாக சில துராக்கிரகிகள் பகிரங்கமாய் கோர்ட்டில் வாக்கு மூலங்கள் கொடுத்ததை அரசாங்கத்தார் அறிவார்களா?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"தயவு செய்து இந்த கேள்விக்குப் பதில் சொல்ல என்னைக் கேட்கவேண்டாமென்று கேட்டுக் கொள்கிறேன்."

SRI T. S. CHOKKALINGAM:—"May I know, Sir, whether any hon. Member of this House is connected with this anti-Hindi agitation?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I am connected, Sir." (Laughter.)

SRI T. S. CHOKKALINGAM:—"May I know, Sir, whether any of the hon. Members of this House, who are advocating anti-Hindi offered themselves for picketing or are merely showing lip sympathy?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I think, we should feel glad, Sir, that they did not go further." (Laughter.)

KUMARARAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Am I right, Sir, in saying that the Government in reply to a question sometime ago stated that no one has been convicted in connexion with the anti-Hindustani movement?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"The hon. Member is quoting wrongly. What I said was that no one has been convicted *for* anti-Hindustani *agitation* and I say so again."

K. ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, if picketing amounts to causing any amount of annoyance?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Some kinds of annoyance go by the name of picketing, but in real picketing there will not be annoyance."

K. ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, from the Hon. the Premier what peaceful picketing is, what it should be and how it should be?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Sir, picketing is a form of persuasion. Picketing is a way of attempting to persuade people and it must be peaceful. It must be calculated to convert the mind of the person who is picketed, but picketing for annoyance of the Government is not picketing."

KUMARARAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"I would like to ask the Government whether one of the prisoners convicted in this movement, Mr. Ramaswami Nayakar, is now not keeping good health?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I am sorry it does not arise; but if a question is put down, I shall make enquiries."

KUMARARAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"In view of the death of a prisoner convicted in this movement and in view of the feeling that adequate and immediate medical aid of the proper kind was not given to him in the jail, will the Government give an assurance to this House that they will do all that is possible to take care of the health of all the prisoners who have been convicted in this movement and who are kept in various jails in the Presidency?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I am surprised at the form in which a responsible member has put the question. The matter was thoroughly discussed the other day and I made it very clear and beyond all possible doubt that the best and most expert medical help was given to the prisoner, to the boy of 18, who had been dragged into this agitation and who died on account of previous disease. Therefore, there is no question of anything having been shown that proper attention was not given. And, therefore, Sir, the supplementary question does not arise."

KUMARARAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in putting this question, I never put a supplementary question about the death of Natarajan or the disease on account of which he died. I put this supplementary question, as no assurance was given to us the other day with regard to the prisoners in the various prisons in the Presidency. Now I want to know in view of the answer which the Prime Minister has just now given that there are a large number of prisoners, whether the Government can give this House an assurance that they will give all medical help to all those prisoners who are connected with this movement."

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MR. SPEAKER:—"The Kumararaja will notice that the question was preceded by an observation that there was a feeling that a prisoner was not properly treated. If that observation is withdrawn the question may be answered."

KUMARARAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"I wanted answer to the second part of the question. I myself wanted to tell you, Sir, that I will be willing to remove the first part provided I got the answer to the second part."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The second part of the question will not be allowed unless the first part of the question is withdrawn."

KUMARARAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"I am very willing to withdraw that part of the question, Sir. I am anxious to get the answer to the second part. I think it will be very helpful for the Government also, Sir."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I am thankful and glad that the observation made has been withdrawn. But, you will permit me, Sir, to say that the Leader of the Opposition should not really have put the question as a person in his position making such observations does seriously hurt the cause of good Government, even though subsequently the observation is withdrawn. If any other hon. Member had made such an observation, I would not have made such fuss about it but I would have ignored it."

KUMARARAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Mr. Speaker, I am very anxious to keep the decorum of this House. I will be the last person to put any such question. I have always been very careful and polite and I only wanted information. I submit, Sir, that I never put a question which can be construed as not proper. I am very anxious to put only relevant questions. And, now, I only wanted that the House should get an assurance from the Government which will go to allay public apprehension regarding the health of these prisoners. I think the Government should have thanked me and welcomed the opportunity for explaining to this House, that they are taking care of the health of these prisoners."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The Kumararaja will stop his argument. The question hour is not intended for any argument between members. The Kumararaja will frame the supplementary question again and then it will be answered straight."

KUMARARAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Will the Government be pleased to give an assurance to this House that they will do all that is possible to give immediate help to all prisoners who may be in need of medical attendance,

prisoners who are convicted in the anti-Hindustani movement and who are kept in the various jails in the Presidency?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"That assurance is there in the very functions of Government and that assurance may be taken to be there on the statute-book in respect of every prisoner in the jails of Government."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, from the Hon. the Premier, Sir, whether the Government have satisfied themselves that in all cases of conviction the terms of sentences are commensurate with the offences and charges that are made against these individual prisoners."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"It does not arise out of this question, Sir, and it is not for the Government to make such observations now with regard to the sentences."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I ask the Hon. Prime Minister whether, in view of the fact that this has assumed a political colour—although the Hon. Premier may not agree, the facts are there—he will go a little out of the way and see that the sentences that are inflicted on a large number of these cases are not bitter and are not more than what they should be?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I am sorry, Sir, that the hon. Member is driving me to give my opinion on the sentences, and if he insists, I would say that the sentences are very light."

SRI A. SUBRAHMANYAM:—"சுவாமி என்று வழங்கப்படுகிறவர் களுக்கு இருக்கும் நல்ல குணங்களும் நடத்தைகளும் இல்லாமையினாலேயும், 'B' வகுப்பினருக்குள்ள அந்தஸ்து இல்லாமையினாலேயும் ஸ்ரீ அருணகிரி நாதர் 'B' வகுப்புக் கைதியாகப் பாவிக்கப்படாமலிருக்கலாமல்லவா?"

(No reply.)

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I should like to know the English version of the question; it appears to be a very important question."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"The question was, what is the basis on which the classification of prisoners is made as political? There is no such classification according to orders of the Government. The classifications are A, B, and unclassified. That is all."

SRI E. KANNAN:—"With reference to the answer to clause (*f*) of this question, may I know, Sir, whether the simple fact that this Mr. Arunagiri Nathar is a *swamiar*, is sufficient qualification for his being treated as a 'B' class prisoner?"

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THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" I am unable to see that anybody has asked that a person should be placed in the ' B ' class because he is a *swamiar*. There is no such request in the question."

SRI T. S. CHOKKALINGAM:—" May I know, Sir, how many illiterate and literate persons there are among the anti-Hindi prisoners? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" I am not ready with an answer, Sir."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" I want to make a submission, through you, Sir. I have been noticing some of these questions and I find that they have been put not with the object of eliciting information, but of making an insinuation. I hope the Hon. the Speaker will not allow such questions."

MR. SPEAKER:—" The hon. Member is not in order in making use of the word ' insinuation.' If there was any insinuation, the questions would not have been allowed. The hon. Member must have known it."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" It is a matter of opinion."

MR. SPEAKER:—" The hon. Member ought not to express such opinions."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Why? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" He ought to withdraw the insinuation against the Chair."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" In my opinion certain questions were insinuating, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER:—" The ruling has been given and the Chair has allowed these supplementary questions, because there were no insinuations in them.

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" I do not say anything upon the ruling given. I merely requested the Hon. the Speaker not to allow such questions hereafter, because they are . . . "

MR. SPEAKER:—" At no time will any insinuation be allowed, whether by Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan or any other member."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" It appears there has been a little confusion. There is no question of insinuation at all. Some members who have already information put a question as if to elicit information. That is perhaps what the hon. Member is objecting to. But, it is a very old parliamentary practice." (Laughter.)